



## WHY DEATH?

### Quest Lesson A-6

The Problem: A beautiful little three-year old girl was missing from home one day. Mother searched the house and the neighborhood, but all to no avail. Little Karen was nowhere to be found. Mother anxiously phoned the police thinking that some terrible thing may have happened. The police searched the neighborhood all night without finding the precious child. Next morning someone crawled under the house next door. Sure enough, there she was! But she was clinging to an electric wire, and she was dead,

Everyone asked, "Why?" A little ray of sunshine has her life snuffed out, and her broken-hearted parents stand at the graveside feeling that life has lost its meaning. Why does it happen? The whole world is full of tragedy like that. In life we are in the midst of death. It is possible to give all kinds of shallow explanations. But what is the real reason for death? Why can't life just go on without calamities occurring? Why can't bodies and minds grow stronger and healthier, instead of progressively deteriorating. Why do people have to become old and senile, even after lives of great activity and useful service?

Where does death come from? Can man ever find a cure for it? If only our dreams of perpetual life could be realized! Think of the great things we could achieve! Some people argue that over-population would be a worse evil than death. Yet over-population is one of the causes of death. How can we have a new order of things so that death and all its causes can be eliminated?

There are answers to all these questions in the Word of God. Let us search for them?

#### Objectives

First, we will study what the Bible says about the origin of evil.

Second, we will note that there was actually war in heaven.

Third, it is important to realize that God tests His created beings to see whether they really want to love and serve Him.

Fourth, trouble began in our world when our first parents failed God's test.

Fifth, we will see that the results of that first sin have been devastating for our world. And the results of our sin are terrible also. But there is a solution!

#### I. It All Began with Pride

There was an exquisitely beautiful angel in heaven who was privileged to serve in the very presence of God Himself. Tragically he began to wish that he were more important. It was not enough that the other angels looked up to him as their supervisor. He wanted to have the supreme command. He wanted to be like God!

#### The Word

1. What special message did Isaiah direct to the king of Babylon, but especially to his master, Lucifer or Satan? Isaiah 14:12-14.
2. What message did Ezekiel have for Satan who was controlling the king of Tyre? Ezekiel 28:11-15.
3. What kind of evil did Jesus say the devil cherished in his own heart? John 8:44.

4. What kind of person did Satan make himself, and what kind of people are his followers? 2 Thessalonians 2: 9-10.

Explanation: The name Lucifer (Isaiah 14:2) means "shining one," "brilliant one." Before his fall, Satan was known as Lucifer. The name was very appropriate because he was next to Christ in power and authority and director of the angelic hosts. It is clear that Isaiah was speaking to the power behind the king of Babylon, that is Lucifer, whose pride turned him into Satan (or "adversary"). It is also clear that the king of Tyre had never been "in Eden the garden of God" (Ezekiel 28:13), covered with precious jewels. Ezekiel is simply speaking directly to the evil being who was motivating the king of Tyre to pride and selfishness. Lucifer, who made himself Satan, had every opportunity to live a life of unending joy and usefulness, but by pride and covetousness alienated himself from God, and became a degraded demon.

Relevance: This explains where evil and death originated. They are the products of Satan's rebellion against God.

The Lord is perfect love, truthfulness, and goodness. He created all His creatures to be the same. Yet he gave them power of choice because he wanted only service motivated by love. Satan drove love out of his own heart and became an ugly demon. Such is always the result of rebellion against God and separation from Him.

## II. War in Heaven?

Yes, there was war in heaven because Lucifer (Satan) persuaded one third of the angels to join him in rebelling against God. Now there were two forces operating, the love of God and the jealousy of Satan. The inevitable result was civil war. Note what happened.

### The Word

5. What does John the Revelator say about the war in heaven? Revelation 12:7-9.
6. How does John symbolically teach that one third of the angels were cast out with Satan? Revelation 12:3-4.
7. Who was Michael who fought with the dragon (Satan)? Revelation 12:7; Jude 9 (compare 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 5:27-29); Daniel 10:13, 213 12:1.

Explanation: The Hebrew name Michael means "who is like God?" Satan had claimed to be like God, but his claim was contested by Michael. The name Michael is a question because that was the question being contested in heaven. But who is Michael? Jude 9 indicates that Michael is the archangel. 1 Thessalonians 4:16 says that the voice of the archangel will raise the dead at the end of time. John 5:28-29 teach that it is the voice of Christ that will raise the dead. The conclusion is that Christ is the archangel or Michael. Is the Deity ever spoken of elsewhere in Scripture as an Angel. Yes, quite a number of times. See Genesis 48:16; Exodus 3:2-6 (compare Acts 7:30-33); Exodus 14:19; 23:20-24 (compare 1 Corinthians 10:4); Judges 2:1-4; 6:11-24.

In the book of Daniel, Michael is "one of the chief princes" in heaven (Daniel 10:13; Hebrew Sar = prince or ruler). The chief Princes or Rulers in heaven are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Since Christ is one of the chief Princes in heaven, there is no reason why the passage cannot refer to Him. The book of Daniel also refers to Michael as "your prince" or "your ruler" (Daniel 10:21). No mere created angel could be spoken of as the Prince or Ruler of prophets. When John tried to worship an angel, he was instructed not to (Revelation 19:10). Daniel also speaks of Michael as "the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people" (Daniel 12:1).

Who is the leading Prince elsewhere in the book of Daniel? The Prince in Daniel 9:25 is the Messiah? Hence, Daniel's Prince is the Messiah. The Messiah is "the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people" (Daniel 12:1). Michael is the Messiah. Of course, the Messiah is Christ. The names "Messiah" (Hebrew) and "Christ" (Greek) both mean "the anointed one." Jesus became the anointed One when He was baptized at the commencement of His ministry. (See Acts 10:38; Matthew 3:16-17).

The war in heaven was between Christ and Satan. The question was, "Who is like God?" The answer was demonstrated by the outcome. Satan and his angels were cast out of heaven. Christ is like God, because He is "the fulness of the Godhead" (Colossians 2:9). Satan could never win in such a contest because he was contending with his Creator.

Relevance: Rebellion against God always results in alienation from Him. To be cast out of His presence is to be cut off from the source of love, purity, and happiness. There can be nothing but evil and misery for Satan and all those who identify themselves with him.

### III. God Tests All His Creatures

God created angels and mankind with the ability to choose loyalty or disloyalty. Men and nations are continually being confronted with the decision either to obey God or to rebel against Him. Satan does all he can to force disloyalty to God. But the Lord never applies force. He seeks us to serve Him because obedience is our choice.

#### The Word

8. What is the only motivation for obedience which God will accept? Deuteronomy 6:5-6; 10:12; 11:1; Joshua 22:5; John 14:15; 15:9-10.
9. What are the inevitable results of disobedience of God's will? 2 Peter 2:4-6; Hebrews 2:2-3; (compare Deuteronomy 11:28; 1 Samuel 12:15).
10. What are some of the ways God tests us? Hebrews 11:8, 17, 36; James 1:2-3; 1 Peter 1:6-7.

Explanation: The temptation to turn away from God comes to different people in different ways. Satan is ever ready to use people and circumstances to induce us to sin, and then to persuade us that God is to blame for the very evils which he caused. Satan is in the business of accusing God and His people (Revelation 12:10).

Relevance: Our only safety is to allow God's love to reign in our hearts so that we will have the constant desire to do His will. Tests and trials will come, but God has said that

He is able to keep us from falling (Jude 24).

### IV. Our First Parents Failed the Test

The sin of Adam and Eve was that they distrusted God's word. Such distrust is, in fact, a lapse from love. If their love for God had been retained, they would never have doubted His word by accepting Satan's lies.

#### The Word

11. What was the one point at which God allowed Satan to tempt Adam and Eve? Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-3.
12. Speaking through the serpent, what lie did Satan present to Eve? Genesis 3:4-5.
13. What wrong choice did Adam and Eve make? Genesis 3:6.

Explanation: Adam and Eve were perfect beings with no inner tendency to evil. They enjoyed unbroken communion with their Creator and were in total accord with His will. But they allowed themselves to distrust God and accept Satan's lies. Thus they lost their perfect union with God and brought sorrow upon themselves and the world.

Relevance: Union with God is the one relationship that will keep us from falling. Love and trust are the bases of the government of God. As long as we love Him and believe in Him with all our hearts we are invincible in the battle with sin.

### V. Problems Begin with Sin

What were the results of that first sin committed on this earth? What are the results of our personal sins?

#### The Word

14. What were the seven results of Adam and Eve's sin?

- a. Genesis 3:7, 10
- b. Genesis 3:12-13
- c. Genesis 3:14
- d. Genesis 3:16
- e. Genesis 3:17-19
- f. Genesis 3:22-24
- g. Romans 5:12, 18-19; 6:23

15. How did God promise the sin problem would be solved? Genesis 3:15.

- a. In this verse identify the following

"And I  
will put enmity between thee  
and the woman  
and between thy seed  
and her seed;  
it shall bruise thy head,  
and thou  
shalt bruise his heel."

- b. What does this text mean?

16. How do we feel after we have sinned? Ezra 9:6; Psalm 44:15; Romans 6:21.

17. How does the Bible describe the hopeless condition of the person living in sin? Ephesians 2:12; Psalm 16:18; Isaiah 59:2; 64:7.

18. What is the end result of a life of sin? Proverbs 11:19; Ezekiel 18:4; Revelation 20:13-15.

19. What solution to our sin problem does God offer? 1 Corinthians 6:11.

20. What solution to the problem of death does Christ Present? 21:4. 1 Corinthians 15:21-23; John 3:36; Revelation 21:4.

Explanation: All our problems are the result of sin. Because of Adam's sin we were born with fallen natures (Psalm 51:53 58:3), in need of a Savior and the new birth experience (John 3:3-7). Without this transforming experience we are inevitably subject to eternal death. But Christ does not leave us to perish in misery. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16). This promise expresses in other words the assurance given to Adam and Eve after they fell into sin (Genesis 3:15). The Messiah came as promised and "bore our sins in His body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24). Now there is hope! Adam earned death for the entire human race (1 Corinthians 15:22), but Christ's sinless life and atoning sacrifice earned eternal life (Romans 5:18-19). This life can be yours if you enter into fellowship with Jesus (1 John 5:10-14). Then the death we die at the end of life is only a temporary sleep from which we will be awakened at the second coming of Jesus (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Relevance: There is a solution to the problem of death. First, we give our hearts to Jesus and His life becomes our life. We have forgiveness, peace, and power to live a new life. Second, we can be assured that death for ourselves, or our believing loved ones, is only very temporary. On the resurrection morning we shall all be reunited. Third, God's people will never suffer the second death, which is the final punishment of the wicked (Revelation 20:6, 14). God's faithful ones will enjoy eternal life unhampered by the misery of sin and death (Revelation 21:4). "No more death!" Think of that!

Have you accepted the peace of Jesus into your heart? "Now is the day of salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). Now is the time to be done with sin and invite God to take full charge of your life. Only thus can you be free of slavery to evil, and become a joyful child of God.

Will you say yes to Jesus right now? All heaven waits silently and longingly for your response?

#### Review Questions

1. True or False

- a. Eve's sin was gluttony?
  - b. One third of the angels remained in heaven.
  - c. There was civil war in heaven.
  - d. Christ is like God because He is the Deity.
2. Discuss: Why should all mankind suffer the results of Adam and Eve's sin? (Romans 5:12-21).